

**The Hurricane Contracting Information Center  
Fact Sheet**

**[www.RebuildingTheGulfCoast.gov](http://www.RebuildingTheGulfCoast.gov)  
1-888-4USADOC**

**Today, Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez unveiled the Hurricane Contracting Information Center (HCIC) to assist U.S. businesses, especially minority and small businesses, in participating in the Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts.**

This center provides the necessary information for U.S. businesses to participate in Gulf Coast contracting, subcontracting and reconstruction.

The Bush administration is reaching out to companies of all sizes, especially minority-owned businesses and small- and medium-sized enterprises, to help those seeking to join the rebuilding efforts can navigate federal agencies and bid for contracts with ease.

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- The Web site allows U.S. businesses to register and become eligible for federal contracts as well as provides e-mail notifications of contracts being made available that correspond to particular areas of expertise.
- The Web site provides a central point for information and services available throughout the government geared to help in the contracting process for U.S. businesses, including minority-owned businesses and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

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- The HCIC also includes a call center staffed with representatives from 11 contracting government agencies onsite to provide direct business counseling.
- These individuals will help businesses navigate the state and federal contracting process.

**Business Outreach**

- The HCIC will canvas the business community by holding roundtables and events with business groups, leaders and others to create awareness of the HCIC and assist businesses.
- The HCIC will showcase the process and services available to aid business involvement.
- A calendar of events will be developed and maintained of such events.